

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for August 30, 2016

Attendance: Wendy DeMann, Ian Wright, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)
Sara Roach, Syanna Madsen (email minute approval)

1. Minutes for July 26, 2016 were approved as written with Sara and Syanna voting via email.
2. Ian met with the Mayor to discuss the museum and the importance of a museum in preserving city history. He shared our vision statement that focuses on the need for adequate space for both permanent and changing exhibits, staffing, and programming. He emphasized the need to find a location for the museum as the city hall is relocated, expressing concern over closing the museum for any extended period of time and the challenges of storing artifacts properly. He didn't want to repeat past history of storing valuable artifacts for 25 years. He said the Mayor wanted to convey to the board his support of the museum. He shared his idea of placing the museum in a new library although he couldn't commit to any time frame. Board members liked that idea but everyone agreed this is a long way out and plans need to be in place to house the museum in a temporary place if necessary. Wendy expressed concern that the library could take over space that was supposed to be used for the museum over time when the library programs expand. Mary Ann shared how the current library auditorium space was designed for art shows with a special tracking system. But the arts board can't access that space anymore because of expanded library programming for junior high kids afterschool. The board agreed the library option would have to assure the museum has dedicated space for exhibits and programming in a written document.

Ian suggested to the Mayor to create a committee to look for potential locations and he volunteered to help organize that. Ian suggested a new board chair could send a thank you note to the Mayor for his support and follow up on this request and also discuss the vision statement and need for a location with the City Council. Mary Ann suggested the board come up with a list of potential places for both temporary and permanent locations.

3. Mary Ann reviewed upcoming events and need for help. She will email board members with requests for help on the new MHS exhibits. We will be taking down the current exhibits likely on September 15 or 16 and then putting up the new exhibits on September 22-23. Museum Day events on scheduled September 24 from 1-4 pm.

Wendy is finishing the script for the Halloween activity. She will need 5 main characters and 6-12 witnesses. If needed, we could pull people from the audience and give them a short script they could actually read. Wendy Richhart from the arts board was willing to play the main character and can pull other cast members together for 1-2 rehearsals including a final rehearsal around 4:30 pm at the Alano Club. Ian might be available to help. Mary Ann asked Wendy to have the script completed by September 27 so Wendy Richhart can schedule a rehearsal. The show will be repeated 3 times on October 22. Luke Orton will provide sound equipment from the amphitheater. We will set up a display near the entrance or at the back of the room featuring poisoning cases that were prevalent at the time. We could also have small caskets and flowers representing the two children who died. Mary Ann will check with Jenkins Soffe if they could help with this since they were involved in the original funeral. The gym and small stage will be used for the 30 minute court room experience and the old chapel area will host a quilt exhibit and other documents about the original poisoning story. Mary Ann will print tickets and Scott Pierce from the Tribune was interested in doing a story about this.

4. Mary Ann reported that the city has approved a 40 hour full time administrative assistant starting in January. Mary Ann said she hopes to find someone who has some interest and experience in both arts and history fields. She will get them involved in both arts and history aspects of her job including museum operations, volunteer coordination, and developing programming. Mary Ann said this person will be important to follow the issue of the museum location.

Ian provided many good ideas for potential programming including a murder mystery related to Murray History, game night (marbles, jacks), scavenger hunt (riddles, clues, prizes), craftsmen workshops and demos (folk art, barbers, woodwork, music), ice cream with historic movie night, and city department history (historic methods for fire, police, power, water). Wendy thought scout groups would come for craftsmen demonstrations. She thought scouts could even make a marble and then learn the game itself. Ian said this needs to be established on a regular basis each week or month. Mary Ann suggested a storytelling activity with older people telling their stories to children titled Grandma, tell me a story. This would be similar to a library story time. The Utah Humanities Council also has a speaker's bureau that may have presentations. Wendy said these people are used to attending things like this with small numbers. The challenge to these ideas will be hosting them in city hall when it is open or securing it if we open at night or on weekends.

5. Mary Ann is working with Murray legislators to clarify the bill regarding local historic districts. They are arranging a meeting with the legal writer of the bill. If needed, one of the legislators may run a bill to clarify the definition of a citizen initiated historic district. Mary Ann questioned whether the intent matches the actual language of the bill. Wendy suggested we talk to Mike Broschinsky who works for the state in the department of rules. They edit the wording of bills that are going into effect so they have the proper language.
6. The RLS survey and the last ILS surveys are now completed. Korral recommended the area of the RLS survey be added to our current downtown residential national register district. She suggested we update the whole district as we do that. Mary Ann was disappointed the ILS surveys were not the buildings she would have recommended. Several were small wood frame homes although a few were brick ramblers including the home of Dr. Sundwall. Korral said she didn't want to repeat the styles from the current national register district and focused on the different building phases. She suggested we could add a few of the more substantial buildings and focus on important community leaders who lived in this area with a revised national register nomination.
7. Mary Ann reported that a few historic buildings are in jeopardy of demolition. The owner of the home at 5419 S 900 East that was just put on the National Register recently died and the daughter wants to sell it for commercial development. Mary Ann talked with a relative and encouraged them to look for a buyer who would preserve the building for a small business. The historic home at 1200 West Bullion may be involved in a zoning change from agricultural to residential. It will likely be demolished for a new housing development. Mary Ann will check on the zoning for these properties. Next month we will talk about potential projects for the next CLG funding including potential national register nominations.